GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2721
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
BILATERAL TRADE WITH PAKISTAN AND CHINA
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to expand bilateral trade with Pakistan and China;

(b) if so, the details of items which have been shortlisted and agreed upon for export and import;

(c) whether India proposes to impose some import restrictions on Pakistan and China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the balance of trade between India and Pakistan during each of the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) India and Pakistan have no formal trade agreement. In so far as imports from Pakistan is concerned, India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. For exports from India to Pakistan, Pakistan maintains a list of importable items from India called Positive List which presently consists of 1802 items.India and Pakistan are currently in negotiations to address the issues concerning bilateral trade through Joint Study Group and within the framework of Composite Dialogue. India and Pakistan are also signatories of the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) which came into force from 1st January 2006.

As regards China, during the Prime Minister's visit to China in January 2008, both sides decided to increase the bilateral trade target from US$ 40 billion to US$ 60 billion by 2010.

(b) No short-listing for export and import in respect of Pakistan and China has been done.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) The figures of bilateral trade between India and Pakistan for the last three years and during April-October 2007 showing the trade balance are given below:

(Value: In US $ Million)

YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL TRADE	TRADE BALANCE
2004-2005	521.05	94.97	616.02	426.08
2005-06	689.23	179.56	868.79	509.67
2006-07	1348.32	323.19	1671.51	1025.13
2007-08 April-Oct 2007	980.92	149.37	1130.29	31.55

Source: DGCI&S Kolkata through NIC, DOC